

## Background on the Darfur crisis

In early 2003, armed groups from Sudan's western region of Darfur launched a rebellion, claiming that Darfur had suffered decades of political marginalization and economic neglect at the hands of successive national governments in Khartoum. The government responded with force, and the fighting quickly escalated. Arab militias—commonly known as Janjaweed—began systematically attacking and destroying villages considered sympathetic to the rebels. The conflict reached its height in 2003 and 2004, but in 2010, fighting continues to trigger wide-scale displacement of civilians.

In March of 2009—shortly after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudan's president Omar Bashir—the Sudanese government revoked the licenses of 16 aid agencies (3 Sudanese and 13 international). Oxfam Great Britain was one of the organizations asked to leave; however, Oxfam America continued and expanded its humanitarian operations in Darfur and is now assisting more than 300,000 people in and around the camps for displaced people.

## The facts

- Between February 2003 and December 2009, nearly 3,000 villages in Darfur were destroyed.
- An estimated 300,000 people have so far been killed in the conflict.
- More than 2.5 million people who have fled their homes are now living in camps in Darfur.
- More than 260,000 Darfuris have taken refuge in neighboring Chad.
- More than 4.7 million people have been directly affected by the conflict.
- The crisis continues: in early 2010, armed conflict displaced tens of thousands of villagers from their homes.

## What Oxfam America is doing

- **Protecting health:** Oxfam America is working with local Sudanese partners and community members to provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene programs to more than 225,000 people in camps for displaced people. The programs involve maintaining wells and distribution systems for clean water, building latrines, and continuously educating residents on how to stay healthy under difficult camp conditions.
- **Supporting women and protecting the environment:** Oxfam and partners are working with community members to assemble and distribute more than 9,000 fuel-efficient stoves that are designed to reduce the need for women and girls to make dangerous treks to gather firewood—while at the same time helping slow deforestation and protect the fragile environment around the camps.



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- **Restoring incomes:** Oxfam partners offer grants, vocational training, and small-business loans—as well as assets like donkeys, donkey carts, seeds, and plows—to help many of those affected by the conflict earn a dignified living. Much of our work focuses on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable camp residents, such as widows and disabled men who are supporting families, but we are also assisting farmers in rural areas outside the major towns and camps.
- **Working for peace:** Oxfam is pursuing ways to bring peace to Darfuri communities. An Oxfam partner recently completed a yearlong program to help revive the traditional conflict-resolution system and restore harmony among three tribes in northeastern Darfur whose relations have been badly damaged in this crisis. An estimated 80,000 people have benefited from the program.

## Oxfam America

Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 90 countries, Oxfam saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. To join our efforts or learn more, go to [oxfamamerica.org](http://oxfamamerica.org).

For more information about our work in Darfur or to take action, visit: [oxfamamerica.org/darfur](http://oxfamamerica.org/darfur).